

**MLB**

# Syndergaard, Mets beat Royals

By **MIKE FITZPATRICK**  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Two balls launched over the wall, one fired over an opponent's head and just like that, David Wright and the New York Mets are right back in this World Series. Wright homered and drove in four runs, Curtis Granderson also connected and rookie Noah Syndergaard set a nasty tone at the start of a 9-3 victory against the Kansas City Royals that trimmed New York's deficit to 2-1 Friday night.

**Game 3**



**New York**  
**9**



**Kansas City**  
**3**



AP Photo/David J. Phillip

**New York Mets' Juan Lagares scores on a hit by Juan Uribe during the sixth inning of Game 3 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the Kansas City Royals Friday, Oct. 30, 2015, in New York.**

Syndergaard's first pitch was a 97 mph fastball just off the inside corner and way over Alcides Escobar's head, eliciting a huge cheer from fans. The skinny shortstop went down to the dirt on his rear end and stayed there, legs splayed, catching his breath for several seconds.

"I feel like it really made a statement to start the game off, that you guys can't dig in and get too aggressive because I'll come in there," said Syndergaard, who alluded Thursday to having "a few tricks" up his sleeve for the leadoff man.

"My intent on that pitch was to make them uncomfortable, and I feel like I did just that. I know that for the past, I think every postseason game that Escobar has played in, he's swung at the first-pitch fastball, and I didn't think he would want to swing at that one."

Escobar, having a huge postseason, acknowledged he was caught off guard.

"I didn't like it one bit. He was saying yesterday that he had a plan against my aggressiveness. If that's the plan, I think that's a stupid plan," Escobar said. "I cannot fathom a pitcher would throw to the head a 98 mph pitch on the first pitch of the game."

Kansas City players spent the next few innings shouting at Syndergaard from the

dugout. "I think the whole team was pretty upset. The first pitch of the game goes whizzing by our leadoff man's head," Mike Moustakas said. "I think all 25 guys in that dugout were pretty fired up."

Shut down at the plate in Kansas City, the Mets broke loose and chased Jordano Ventura early during the first Series game at Citi Field. Aided by more unsteady fielding from a Royals team known for tight defense, New York got 12 hits from nine different players.

Pitching on Halloween eve, Syndergaard recovered from a scary start and went six innings, giving the Mets the winning performance they didn't get from fellow studs Matt Harvey and Jacob deGrom at Kauffman Stadium. "He delivered," manager Terry Collins said. "He came through exactly as we expected."

Another rookie, hometown kid Steven Matz, tries to pull New York even Saturday night in Game 4 when he faces 36-year-old Chris Young and the Royals.

After the Mets fell behind in the first inning, Granderson started the bottom half with a single and Wright hit his first World Series home run, recharging a packed crowd of 44,781 that included Jerry Seinfeld, Chris Rock and Dennis Miller.

"It's one of those memories,

## World Series

**KANSAS CITY 2, NEW YORK 1**  
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)  
All games televised by Fox  
Tuesday, Oct. 27: Kansas City 5, N.Y. Mets 4, 14 innings  
Wednesday, Oct. 28: Kansas City 7, N.Y. Mets 1  
Friday, Oct. 30: New York 9, Kansas City 3  
Saturday, Oct. 31: Kansas City (Young 11-6) at N.Y. Mets (Matz 4-0), 5:07 p.m.  
Sunday, Nov. 1: Kansas City (Volquez 13-9) at N.Y. Mets (Harvey 13-8), 5:15 p.m.  
x-Tuesday, Nov. 3: N.Y. Mets at Kansas City, 5:07 p.m.  
x-Wednesday, Nov. 4: N.Y. Mets at Kansas City, 5:07 p.m.

at least for me, that will stick with me for the rest of my life," Wright said.

The captain, who entered batting .182 without an RBI in his first World Series, added a two-run single on Kelvin Herrera's first pitch during a four-run sixth that broke it open.

Pinch-hitter Juan Uribe, just back from a chest injury, had an RBI single in his first plate appearance since Sept. 25. Slumping slugger Yoenis Cespedes added a sacrifice fly.

"We were relentless tonight," Wright said.

In a matchup between two of the hardest throwers in the game, Syndergaard turned up the heat on a brisk night (52 degrees and windy) while Ventura lost some steam.

"He just wasn't sharp," Kansas City manager Ned Yost said. "Fastball velocity was down. Made a couple mistakes."

Syndergaard, who beat Cubs ace Jake Arrieta in the NLCS, struggled early against

a Royals lineup minus slugging designated hitter Kendrys Morales and was only a couple of batters from coming out of the game, Collins said.

But the 6-foot-6 right-hander aptly nicknamed Thor found his groove just in time and got stronger in the middle innings, when Harvey and deGrom faded in Kansas City.

Syndergaard set down 12 in a row, five on strikeouts, before loading the bases with two outs in the sixth. He retired Alex Rios on his 104th and final pitch to the delight of fans who showed up in long, blond wigs and Viking helmets with replica hammers in their hands.

Hoping to rekindle the comeback spirit of 1986, when the Mets rallied from an 0-2 World Series hole to beat Boston for their most recent championship, the team played its highlight video from that year on the large scoreboard during batting practice.

Local boy Billy Joel sang the national anthem, same as 29 years ago at Shea Stadium, and Syndergaard grabbed everyone's attention with his first delivery to Escobar.

"It was the only location he missed all night," Royals first baseman Eric Hosmer said. "No one in here is stupid. We know what he said."

Escobar led off Game 1 with an inside-the-park homer on Harvey's first pitch. This time, the ALCS MVP wound up whiffing on a 99 mph heater.

**MLS**

# Cascadia showdown in MLS Cup semifinals

By **TIM BOOTH**  
Associated Press

A revival of the Atlantic Cup in the postseason, a Cascadia rivalry showdown and the stardom of Montreal's Didier Drogba at age 37 highlights the conference semifinal round of the MLS Cup playoffs that begin this weekend.

The two-game, total goals series begin on Sunday, led by Supporters' Shield winners the New York

Red Bulls facing D.C. United in one

Eastern Conference semifinal, while Portland — after its dramatic

knockout round win over Sporting Kansas City — faces Vancouver in a showdown

of Cascadia rivals in the Western Conference.

The other Eastern Conference semifinal features Drogba — with goals in four of the past five matches — leading surging Montreal against Columbus, while out West, the Seattle Sounders face No. 1 seed FC Dallas.

Portland capped a wild knockout round by outlasting Kansas City in 11 rounds of penalty kicks after the game finished 2-2. The PKs were capped by Portland goalkeeper Adam Kwarasey scoring and saving the final penalty to send the Timbers onward. Also in the West, Seattle knocked out defending MLS Cup champion Los Angeles 3-2, while D.C. United beat New England 2-1 and Montreal continued its torrid late-season charge by routing Toronto 3-0 in the East.

Vancouver Whitecaps at Portland Timbers: How does Portland top the drama from its knockout round win over Kansas City? Do the Timbers have anything left after 120 minutes and 11 rounds of penalty kicks?

That's going to be the biggest question for Portland making the quick turnaround from Thursday's memorable victory to hosting the Whitecaps on Sunday afternoon. The Whitecaps and Timbers played to a pair of draws in their two matches in Portland this season.

"We're not satisfied. We want more," Portland coach Caleb Porter said.

For most of the season, Vancouver was the best team in the Western Conference before fading over the final eight weeks. Vancouver had just one win in its final six matches. If there is optimism for the Whitecaps it comes from their response in the regular-season finale, a 3-0 win over Houston that ensured them the No. 2 seed.

**NBA**

# Bledsoe, Knight lead Suns to win over Blazers

By **BOB BAUM**  
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Eric Bledsoe scored 22 points, backcourt mate Brandon Knight added 18 and the Phoenix Suns pulled away in the second half to roll past the Portland Trail Blazers, 110-92 on Friday night.

Tyson Chandler set the tone after Phoenix's lackluster season debut against Dallas, scoring 10 points in the first quarter. He finished with 15 points and 13 rebounds.

T.J. Warren added 17 points for Phoenix on a night when the Suns inducted Steve Nash into the franchise's Ring of Honor.

Damian Lillard led Portland with 24 points on 7-of-20 shooting. C.J. McCollum added 16, making just 7 of 22 shots. Al-Farouq Aminu

added 16 points and Mason Plumlee 15 for the Blazers.

The teams meet again Saturday night in Portland.

Phoenix took the lead for good at 38-37 on Warren's free throw with 6:20 left in the first half.

The Blazers were down only 50-49 after Aminu's fast-break dunk 1:24 before the break. The Suns finished the half with five free throws, one by Bledsoe and four by Ronnie Price, to lead 55-49.

After watching most of the lengthy Nash ceremony, the Suns built a 14-point lead twice in the third quarter and were up 83-69 entering the fourth. McCollum's 3-pointer cut the lead to 88-75 with



**Phoenix**  
**110**



**Portland**  
**92**

9:19 to play, but Phoenix went on a 14-5 run and Markieff Morris' dunk made it 102-80 with 4:46 left.

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	2	0	1.000	—
Lebanon	1	1	0.500	1
New York	1	1	0.500	1
Brooklyn	0	2	0.000	2
Philadelphia	0	2	0.000	2

### Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	2	0	1.000	—
Atlanta	2	1	0.667	½
Orlando	0	2	0.000	2
Charlotte	0	2	0.000	2

### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	3	0	1.000	—
Chicago	2	1	0.667	1
Cleveland	2	1	0.667	1
Indiana	0	2	0.000	2½
Milwaukee	0	2	0.000	2½

### Western Conference

#### Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	1	1	0.500	—
Memphis	1	1	0.500	—
San Antonio	1	1	0.500	—
Houston	0	2	0.000	1
New Orleans	0	2	0.000	1

### Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	2	0	1.000	—
Oklahoma City	2	0	1.000	—
Portland	1	1	0.500	1
Utah	1	1	0.500	1
Denver	1	1	0.500	1

### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	2	0	1.000	—
Golden State	2	0	1.000	—
Sacramento	1	1	0.500	1
Phoenix	1	1	0.500	1
L.A. Lakers	0	2	0.000	2

### Friday's Games

- Utah 99, Philadelphia 71
- Cleveland 102, Miami 92
- Oklahoma City 139, Orlando 136,20T
- Detroit 98, Chicago 94, OT
- Toronto 113, Boston 103
- Washington 118, Milwaukee 113
- Atlanta 97, Charlotte 94
- San Antonio 102, Brooklyn 75
- Minnesota 95, Denver 78
- Golden State 112, Houston 92
- Sacramento 132, L.A. Lakers 114
- Phoenix 110, Portland 92
- Saturday's Games
- Utah at Indiana, 4 p.m.
- New York at Washington, 4 p.m.
- Golden State at New Orleans, 4:30 p.m.
- Brooklyn at Memphis, 5 p.m.
- Phoenix at Portland, 7 p.m.
- Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday's Games
- Atlanta at Charlotte, 11 a.m.
- San Antonio at Boston, 12:30 p.m.
- Milwaukee at Toronto, 3 p.m.
- Houston at Miami, 3 p.m.
- Orlando at Chicago, 4 p.m.
- Denver at Oklahoma City, 4 p.m.
- Dallas at L.A. Lakers, 6:30 p.m.

## SCOREBOARD

Local slate	Saturday, Oct. 7	Saturday, Oct. 7
<b>PREP GIRLS SOCCER</b> Saturday (4A play-in) Banks at Mac-Hi, Noon (5A first round) Putnam at Hermiston, 2:30 p.m.	<b>COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL</b> Saturday Eastern Oregon at NW Nazarene (exhibition), Noon Friday, Nov. 6 Eastern Oregon at Arizona Christian, 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 Eastern Oregon at Arizona Christian, 3 p.m.	Lake Oswego 58, Lakeridge 20 Eastern Oregon at Gonzaga (exhibition), 5 p.m.
<b>PREP BOYS SOCCER</b> Saturday (5A first round) Liberty at Hermiston, Noon (4A play-in) Mac-Hi at Phoenix (Medford), 1 p.m. (5A first round) Pendleton at Putnam, 5 p.m.	<b>OSAA</b> <b>Friday's scores</b> Adrian 48, Wallowa 14 Amity 16, Dayton 8 Ashland 55, Eagle Point 16 Bandon 14, Gold Beach 8 Bend 27, Mountain View 6 Blanchet Catholic 54, Gervais 0 Cascade Christian 62, Illinois Valley 0 Centennial 28, Gresham 6 Central 65, Woodburn 0 Central Catholic 45, David Douglas 13 Central Linn 41, St. Paul 14 Clackamas 49, Reynolds 32 Clifton 14, Jefferson 7 Coquille/Pacific 24, Harrisburg 20 Crane 60, Powder Valley 8 Crater 30, Churchill 15 Creswell 20, Glide 12 Days Creek 44, Triad School 30 Dufur 54, Mitchell-Spray 12 Echo 79, Dayville/Monument 6 Elkton 26, Gilchrist 20 Forest Grove 28, McMinnville 20 Franklin 50, Cleveland 6 Glendale 56, Prospect 54 Guns Pass 35, Willamette 7 Heppner 20, Weston/McCewen 7 Hermiston 28, Pendleton 12 Hood River 33, The Dalles 14 Imbler 58, Grant Union 34 Ione 77, South Wasco County 14 Irrigon 56, Pilot Rock/Nixyaavwi 14 Jefferson PDX 20, Roosevelt 18 Jesuit 70, Beaverton 0 Joseph 72, Harper/Huntington 12	Veronica 34, Knappa 22 Warrenton 29, Portland Christian 0 West Linn 30, Canby 14 West Salem 21, McKay 0 Westview 77, Aloha 38 Willamina 22, Sheridan 12 Wilson 63, Madison 12 Wilsonville 59, Hillsboro 14 Yoncalla 55, Triangle Lake 6
<b>PREP VOLLEYBALL</b> Saturday (1A second round) Helix at Crane, 1 p.m. (2A first round) Weston-McEwen at Reed-spert, 3 p.m. (1A second round) Elkton at Ione, 4 p.m.		<b>Class 4A Play-In</b> Astoria 7, South Umpqua 6 Cascade 61, Klamath 0 Crook County 49, Henley 23 Gladstone 22, Stayton 21 Junction City 24, Siuslaw 21 Marshfield 44, Sweet Home 14 North Marion 35, Phoenix 20
<b>COLLEGE FOOTBALL</b> Saturday Eastern Oregon at Montana Tech, Noon Saturday, Nov. 7 College of Idaho at Eastern Oregon, Noon		<b>POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS</b> Gaston vs. Neah-Kah-Nie, cccd.
<b>COLLEGE MEN'S SOCCER</b> Saturday Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 7 p.m.		<b>Hockey</b> <b>NHL</b> <b>Friday's Games</b> Buffalo 3, Philadelphia 1 N.Y. Rangers 3, Toronto 1 Washington 2, Columbus 2 Carolina 3, Colorado 2 Ottawa 3, Detroit 1 Boston 3, Florida 1 Minnesota 5, Chicago 4 Montreal 6, Calgary 2 Vancouver 4, Arizona 3 <b>Saturday's Games</b> N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey, 10 a.m. San Jose at Dallas, Noon Nashville at Los Angeles, 1 p.m. Pittsburgh at Toronto, 4 p.m. Detroit at Ottawa, 4 p.m. Boston at Tampa Bay, 4 p.m. Washington at Florida, 4 p.m. Winnipeg at Columbus, 4 p.m. Minnesota at St. Louis, 5 p.m. Calgary at Edmonton, 7 p.m. <b>Sunday's Games</b> San Jose at Colorado, Noon Tampa Bay at Carolina, 2 p.m. Winnipeg at Montreal, 4 p.m. Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders, 4:30 p.m. Nashville at Anaheim, 5 p.m.
<b>COLLEGE WOMEN'S SOCCER</b> Saturday Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 9 p.m.		<b>Chase For The Cup</b> <b>Challenger Round</b> Sept. 20 MyAFIBRisk.com 400, Joliet, Ill. (Denny Hamlin) Sept. 27 SYLVANIA 300, Loudon, N.H. (Matt Kenseth) Oct. 4 AAA 400, Dover, Del. (Kevin Harvick) <b>Contender Round</b> Oct. 11 Bank of America 500, Concord, N.C. (Joey Logano) Oct. 18 Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan. (Joey Logano) Oct. 25 CampingWorld.com 500, Talladega, Ala. (Joey Logano) <b>Eliminator Round</b> Nov. 1 Goody's Headache Relief Shot 500, Martinsville, Va. Nov. 8 AAA Texas 500, Fort Worth Nov. 15 Quicken Loans Race for Heroes 500, Avondale, Ariz. <b>Championship Round</b> Nov. 22 Ford EcoBoost 400, Homestead, Fla.
<b>COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL</b> Saturday Eastern Oregon at Oregon Tech, 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5 Walla Walla U. at Eastern Oregon, 7 p.m.		<b>Driver Standings</b> 1. Joey Logano, 4,000. 2. Carl Edwards, 4,000. 3. Jeff Gordon, 4,000. 4. Kurt Busch, 4,000. 5. Brad Keselowski, 4,000. 6. Martin Truex Jr., 4,000. 7. Kevin Harvick, 4,000. 8. Kyle Busch, 4,000. 9. Denny Hamlin, 2,209. 10. Ryan Newman, 2,194. 11. Matt Kenseth, 2,191. 12. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 2,181. 13. Jamie Johnson, 2,161. 14. Jamie McMurray, 2,159. 15. Paul Menard, 2,148. 16. Clint Bowyer, 2,123. 17. Aric Almirola, 849. 18. Casey Kahne, 837. 19. Greg Biffle, 778. 20. Kyle Larson, 777.